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STATE ALSO PASS TO USAID  
USAID/W FOR A/AID ANDREW NATSIOS, JBRAUSE  
DCHA/OFDA KISAACS, GGOTTLIEB, MMARK, RTHAYER,  
BDEEMER  
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DCHA DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR WILLIAM  
GARVELINK  
ANE DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR MARK WARD  
BANGKOK FOR OFDA SENIOR REGIONAL ADVISOR TOM DOLAN  
KATHMANDU FOR OFDA REGIONAL ADVISOR WILLIAM BERGER  
GENEVA FOR USAID KYLOH  
ROME PASS FODAG  
NSC FOR MELINE  
CDR USPACOM FOR J3/J4/POLAD  
USEU PASS USEC

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [AEMR](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [CE](#)

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA - EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS:  
USAID/DART SITREP #19

REF: COLOMBO 646

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Summary  
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1. From April 5 to April 7, the USAID/Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) Information Officer (IO) and a USAID/Colombo Foreign Service National (FSN) assisting the USAID/DART visited USAID/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) implementing partners in Galle and Matara in southern Sri Lanka. The team visited the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Save the Children-United Kingdom (SC-UK), GOAL, Community Habitat Finance (CHF), and Christian Children's Fund (CCF) to discuss USAID/OFDA-funded programs including emergency relief supplies, livelihoods, psychological and social activities, and transitional shelter.

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IFRC's Programs in Galle  
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2. On April 5, the USAID/DART IO and USAID/Colombo FSN met with USAID/OFDA implementing partner IFRC in their warehouse in Galle which is the commodity shipment point for their southern operations (southern Sri Lanka to Hambantota). IFRC has four warehouses that are located in Galle, Ratnapura (Ratnapura District), Ampara District, and Colombo. Most of IFRC's relief supplies arrive in Galle via Colombo. Between January 5 and March 23, IFRC distributed relief supplies, including blankets, family tents, hygiene kits, 10 and 20 liter jerry cans, kitchen sets, tarpaulins, bedsheets, sleeping mats, saris, sarongs, mosquito nets, laundry soap, baby kits, ropes, women's underwear, lamps, and cookers and kerosene at 178 sites in Galle, Matara, and Hambantota assisting 48,287 families or 208,170 persons. [Note: IFRC uses the figure of 4.31 for family size. Exact totals of individual items distributed are available if necessary, and these figures only cover IFRC's activities in southern Sri Lanka. End Note.]

3. IFRC continues to distribute USAID/OFDA-provided hygiene kits, as well as those from other donor countries, and baby kits monthly and will continue these distributions for a few more months. IFRC is also examining procuring additional hygiene kits locally as needed. In June, IFRC will reevaluate the needs based upon where internally displaced persons (IDPs) are living.

4. IFRC conducted a focus group with affected women regarding the hygiene kits and discovered that feminine products, soaps, and combs were extremely valuable; however, the individuals in the focus group did not need as much toilet paper as was provided in the hygiene kits. [Note: USAID/OFDA's hygiene kits were one of the only types of hygiene kits to provide combs. IFRC has heard from several beneficiaries that the quote blue-type razors end quote used in USAID/OFDA hygiene kits, as well as those provided by other

donors, are not quite sharp enough. End Note.]  
IFRC has phased out distributions of other items  
such as jerry cans, plastic sheeting, and stoves.

15. While in Galle, the team observed an IFRC distribution through the Sri Lankan Red Cross (SLRC) in Thalaaramba in Matara District. During this distribution, SLRC provided 450 families with blankets, jerry cans, hygiene kits, four bars of soap, and plastic mats. SLRC also registered all beneficiaries and provided beneficiary cards. During this visit, the USAID/DART IO spoke with the SLRC District Coordinator for Matara who advised the USAID/DART IO that he distributed USAID/OFDA plastic sheeting to fisherman in Matara town. The SLRC District Coordinator noted that the marketplace in Matara was hard-hit by the tsunami, and 95 percent of the people that died in Matara were killed in the marketplace. As a result, many lost their shops, and roofs on stalls were destroyed in the marketplace. SLRC provided USAID/OFDA plastic sheeting to many fishermen so they could protect their stalls from the rain and the sun and start selling fish in the marketplace again. Additionally, fishermen are using the plastic sheeting in their temporary homes and to protect them from the sun as they attempt to repair boats and equipment.

16. USAID/OFDA plastic sheeting is also being used in schools to protect students from the seabreeze and rain. The SLRC District Coordinator stated that he greatly appreciated USAID's efforts in Sri Lanka, and the fisherman were grateful and relayed their thanks to USAID for the plastic sheeting.

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IOM and Livelihoods  
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17. On April 6, the team attended the second distribution of tools by USAID/OFDA implementing partner IOM to tsunami-affected carpenters in Matara District. The tsunami destroyed the tools of many carpenters in Matara District, and those tools that withstood the tsunami are now rusted. The first distribution took place in March, and 16 carpenters received tools. During the second distribution, IOM distributed tools to 43 additional carpenters. IOM stated that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that conduct vocational training developed this standard tool kit that included hand saws, an electric drill, drill bits, chisels, hammers, measuring tape, an angle grinder, a vise grip, as well as other items. The total value of the kit was USD 150, and all tools were procured in Colombo or in Matara District.

18. IOM identified tsunami-affected carpenters with the assistance of the Southern Development Authority (SDA) and then verified the names provided by the SDA. The carpenters are all skilled, and no additional training is necessary. Since there is significant reconstruction work taking place in Matara, with the aid of the tool kit, the carpenters will be able to regain their livelihoods. IOM also plans to implement a livelihoods program with USAID/OFDA funding in Kalutara. IOM stated that the NGOs at the livelihoods sector meetings have identified different sectors to assist, and IOM will assist both carpenters and masons.

19. During this tool distribution, the team spoke with KR Nandasena from Paramulla in Matara District who has been living in a camp since the tsunami and received a tool kit. Mr. Nandasena's home was completely destroyed due to the tsunami, but his family survived. Mr. Nandasena does not know when he will receive a transitional shelter or land to rebuild his home as his home was located within the 100-meter buffer zone. Mr. Nandasena learned of the IOM tool distribution at the camp and registered to become a beneficiary. Prior to the tsunami, Mr. Nandasena had his own carpentry

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business, and with the receipt of these tools, Mr. Nandasena will restart his business at his sister's house. Mr. Nandasena usually does carpentry work with four men who also received tools, and now they will all be able to work together to engage in reconstruction work such as fixing boats, roofs, and houses. Before he received this tool kit, Mr. Nandasena had been borrowing tools from friends in

order to engage in carpentry work to support his family. In conversations with the team, Mr. Nandasena said that his life had been dark for a few months after the tsunami, but now due to the receipt of these tools, his life has been enlightened.

10. In Matara District, with USAID/OFDA support, IOM is also assisting women in six camps by providing two sewing machines per camp as well as cutting tables, materials, and thread. The team visited sewing centers in two camps and met with camp residents. The beneficiaries are consulted on what type of materials they need, and this USAID/OFDA-funded IOM program will assist women with income generation. Workshops are held in the camp to assist women in upgrading their sewing skills and to teach those women who do not already know how to sew. IOM is also identifying tailors in the six camps.

11. A local organization, Nawimana Southern Rural Development Fund, has also approached IOM with a proposal to identify female sewers who have been affected by the tsunami but who do not live in the camps. IOM plans to provide sewing machines and establish a sewing center on the grounds of a temple. To date, IOM has identified 35 sewers, who were established in the sewing business prior to the tsunami, and will assist these sewers with tools and machines in Matara District. Each sewer will receive a manual machine, (cost USD 150) and the women will also receive training in small business management, marketing, and financial management of small businesses so they may more effectively market and sell their goods.

12. All IOM's beneficiaries receive information sessions when they receive tools and machines etc. to ensure that recipients understand that these goods are to positively benefit their families' incomes and should not be sold. IOM will conduct informal follow-up interviews with all recipients to ensure that recipients have used their tools, machines, etc. appropriately.

13. Within the camps in Matara, IOM has created camp care committees composed of camp residents, and all committees are 50 percent men and 50 percent women. These committees speak on behalf of all camp residents, and the members are trained by IOM. IOM is also conducting surveys of residents in six camps to identify the needs. Through these surveys, IOM is identifying the source of income for primary and secondary income earners and prioritizing the most vulnerable individuals, to include single-headed households (male or female), and those widowed, divorced, separated, or who have a spouse working elsewhere in the country. Other people included in the vulnerable population are the disabled, young adults, and the elderly. Based upon the results of these surveys, IOM hopes to assist the camp residents with training programs, tools, and microfinance assistance.

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SCF-UK's Psychological and Social Programs  
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14. On April 6, the team met with SCF-UK to discuss psychological, social, and child protection support in Matara District. To increase the capacity of its volunteers to ensure they are able to identify children with psychological problems who need counseling, SCF-UK planned workshops for its volunteers at 22 different centers. Additionally, SCF-UK is providing child friendly corners so children have play activities and can better adapt in the aftermath of the tsunami. SCF-UK plans different activities for different age groups including Lego, puzzles, drawing, and singing for children aged 6 to 11, and Scrabble, Carom, reading, drawing, drama, general knowledge quizzes, and group discussions on issues such as health for those aged 11 to 19. SCF-UK's education unit is focusing on starting pre-schools at camps for children aged three to five years. The SCF-UK representative advised the team that there is a great need for emotional support for children in tsunami-affected areas.

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CCF's Programs in Matara District  
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15. On April 6, the team visited a USAID/OFDA-funded CCF project in Polwathemodara in Matara District that provides psychological and social support through child-friendly spaces where games and activities are designed to help tsunami-affected children with emotional recovery. The woman who runs the CCF project was also affected by the tsunami, and her house was destroyed. This CCF volunteer is currently conducting daily classes from 1530 to 1730 hours in the transitional shelter built for her by USAID/OFDA implementing partner CHF. In these classes she teaches English, Math, Dancing, and Music. The CCF volunteer stated that the children still seem worried about the ocean and continue to draw pictures of the tsunami. The CCF program initially started with 20 children in a temple, but has now increased in number.

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GOAL's Transitional Shelter Program in Matara District  
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16. On April 6, the team met with a GOAL representative in Matara District to discuss GOAL's USAID/OFDA-funded transitional shelter program. The GOAL representative stated that the organization initially did not intend to build transitional shelters in Matara District as the area was adequately covered by other NGOs; however, many NGOs were unable to fulfill their previous commitments, and GOAL started building shelters in Matara District in March. GOAL currently plans to build 100 shelters in Dickwella, but will eventually complete approximately 200 shelters total in Matara District. As of April 6, GOAL has completed 68 transitional shelters in Matara District.

17. GOAL noted that the allocation of land for transitional shelters is a significant problem (see reftel), and the organization has encountered many problems obtaining land from the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL). GOAL stated that after many meetings, the GOSL finally provided land to GOAL on April 1, but it is a site that is prone to flooding and GOAL will have to build a drainage system. The GOSL also offered GOAL another plot of land where they could build four shelters; however, GOAL rejected the land as it was a mass grave containing 46 bodies. The GOSL has also offered to sell land to those NGOs that wish to purchase land, and GOAL noted that the cheapest land available was USD 160,000 per acre.

18. The GOAL representative stated that the lack of available land on which to build transitional shelters is a significant problem, and GOAL is currently going door-to-door in Matara District and speaking to residents who have available land on which they will allow GOAL to build transitional shelters. GOAL is currently building transitional shelters on these single sites, often in private owners' gardens. In cases where GOAL has been building on the land of private owners, GOAL negotiates an agreement with the landowner so that the landowner will own the transitional shelter after the IDP leaves the landowner's property.

19. GOAL had hoped to build six to seven transitional shelters per day; however due to the recent bad weather and rains, GOAL has only managed to build between three and four shelters a day in Matara District. The GOAL representative noted that if the GOSL provided plots of land, they would be able to construct between 12 and 15 shelters a day. The District Secretary advised GOAL that approximately 1,000 families in Dickwella need transitional shelter; however the GOAL representative believes that between 150 and 200 families, and at most 300 families, actually need shelter in this area.

20. The GOAL representative reported that since USD 400 is now the limit for the cost of shelters, after all transitional shelters have been constructed, as a separate project (not with USAID/OFDA funding), GOAL will revisit previously constructed transitional shelters and install kitchens and electrical wiring.

21. The team visited the location of the first transitional shelter constructed by GOAL in Matara

District, as well as the location of the most recently constructed transitional shelter that was finished just hours before the team's visit. Occupants of all shelters were extremely happy and grateful to now have a place to live and were satisfied with the quality of the shelters.

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CHF's Transitional Shelter Program in Matara District  
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¶22. On April 7, the team met with USAID/OFDA implementing partner CHF to discuss CHF's USAID/OFDA-funded transitional shelter program in Matara District. CHF, like GOAL, noted that allocation of land has been the main impediment to building transitional shelters. CHF has been identifying those individuals who still have land and are located outside the 100-meter buffer zone where transitional shelters can be built. Approximately 80 percent of CHF's beneficiaries are housed on their own land, outside the 100-meter buffer zone. In general in Matara District, CHF has been constructing shelters on residents' own land, the land of relatives, and as a last resort, like GOAL, CHF has also been negotiating private plots with local land owners.

¶23. Currently CHF has 400 transitional shelters under construction in Galle and Matara. The CHF representative noted that initially CHF planned to construct 3,000 transitional shelters; however, CHF noted that in the days following the tsunami, initial assessments over-estimated the number of those residents who lost their homes, and the actual number of residents who lost their homes has dropped by 50 percent. In addition, since the beginning of the relief response, the cost per transitional shelter has also changed from USD 250 to USD 400. As a result, CHF is examining putting plywood on the sides of its transitional shelters instead of just plastic sheeting to upgrade the shelters and provide additional security and stability. CHF is currently committed to providing 2,000 shelters at USD 400 per unit in Galle and Matara.

¶24. CHF has identified 700 beneficiary families in Galle and between 500 and 600 families in Matara District. After all the initial transitional shelters have been built, with the remaining difference of 800 shelters (from 2,000 planned), CHF plans to revisit those families who have already received shelters at the lower cost and upgrade them with the plywood. Additionally, CHF will also revisit families with seven or more members that previously only received one shelter, and CHF will provide an additional transitional shelter to these larger families. CHF will also upgrade the shelters of other NGOs that constructed shelters at the initial lower cost. As of April 7, CHF has constructed 180 shelters in Galle, and 480 additional transitional shelters are under construction in this area.

¶25. CHF has also been working with Project Galle, an organization formed in the aftermath of the tsunami by expatriate residents and new volunteers,

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to engage in camp upgrades. Currently 65 volunteers and core staff reside in Sri Lanka and have been assisting CHF with camp upgrades in 40 camps in Galle. CHF is providing the financial and technical backing, and Project Galle is providing the labor. Together, both organizations are upgrading the living conditions of camps in Galle, including clearing existing drainage systems, digging new systems so that pools of stagnant water will not develop, and providing temporary water points and temporary latrines. The team visited a camp and witnessed Project Galle volunteers digging ditches and building drainage systems to prevent flooding and upgrading other features at the camp.

¶26. The Italian-provided tents that are currently located in camps in Galle cost USD 850, and since they are more costly than the shelters CHF is building (due to the USD 400 limit), those camp residents located in these tents will not receive additional transitional shelters. However, these tents are designed for cold climates and have little ventilation. Thus, using USAID/OFDA-provided plastic sheeting, CHF and Project Galle will install canopies above the tents to provide

shade from the sun and runoff of rain. The first shade canopies will be delivered on April 11 at a cost of USD 55. CHF is also working with local communities to reposition the tents in these camps up to six to eight inches above the ground to prevent flooding during the monsoon season. CHF will engage in camp upgrades in 20 camps with approximately 900 families.

¶27. The team visited the site of CHF shelters in Werallana in Hikkaduwa. At this location, CHF was constructing eight transitional shelters on land that was owned by a man whose house was also destroyed. The man's house was located in the 100-meter buffer zone, and CHF was also constructing a shelter for him on this land that was located beyond the 100-meter buffer zone. This man had agreed to allow CHF to build these transitional shelters on his land, and the shelters will benefit 35 people.

¶28. When building transitional shelters, CHF noted that in cases where there are no able-bodied men in the beneficiary family, CHF will build the entire transitional shelter. However, if men are available, CHF advises the beneficiaries that CHF will provide the door, roof, and plastic sheeting and the beneficiaries will be paid to do the masonry, frames, and sand foundation work. In cases where the beneficiaries are unable to do the work, they may find someone else to be paid to complete the work. CHF only pays 50 percent initially to ensure that the work is completed.

¶29. Earlier in the week, the team spoke with some beneficiaries who received transitional shelters from CHF in Polathumodara in Matura District. The team spoke to the father of a family of five who had lost his 19 year old daughter due to the tsunami. The man was a fisherman and was currently

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unable to work as his boat was destroyed. His family is living in a transitional shelter that may or may not be within the 100-meter buffer zone (it is within 100 meters of a river and the ocean is slightly beyond the river). CHF had constructed a transitional shelter on top of the foundation of the man's house as it was the only part of his home that was not destroyed. Since the house is located in the area close to/or within the 100-meter buffer zone, the GOSL will not provide the family with money to rebuild their home until they find appropriate land to relocate the family. The man stated that his family would move immediately if the GOSL could provide him a home elsewhere. Until the GOSL makes a determination regarding his land or finds appropriate land for the man to reconstruct his home, he will not receive any compensation for his damaged home and will not be allowed to reconstruct his home on this land.

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